

# Conserve Fuel, Save Money, Protect the Environment

## Drive More Efficiently (Retrain the Brain)

With the automobile being so intertwined with the daily lives of many Americans, any increase in fuel prices also has us searching for ways to reduce the associated fuel bill. There are many easily implemented actions that consumers can take to reduce their fuel bill. Here are a few of them:



- **Obey the posted speed limit - Gas mileage decreases rapidly while traveling at speeds above 60 miles-per-hour.**
- **Minimize Stop and Go**
- **Anticipate road conditions. Glance down the road to see the upcoming traffic conditions. If traffic is slowing down, adjust speed and distance so stopping is kept to a minimum. Speeding up while rolling requires less fuel than starting from a complete stop.**
- **When going downhill, lift off of the accelerator. Let gravity do the work instead of the motor.**
- **When on the highway use the cruise control as much as possible, when safe and practical.**
- **For more brain retraining tips on becoming an EcoDriver, click the following link. [EcoDriving USA](#)**

## Lighten the Load



- **Reduce the trunk load - For every 100 pounds of weight stored in the trunk, a vehicle's fuel economy may be reduced by 2 percent fuel.**
- **Avoid packing items on the vehicle's roof. A roof carrier or other items attached to the vehicle roof may reduce fuel economy by five percent.**



### Vehicle Maintenance

- A properly tuned and maintained engine may increase fuel efficiency by four percent.
- Keep tires properly inflated - Many newer vehicles have the correct tire pressure located on the driver's door jamb.
- Read the owners manual-This manual is the best source of information regarding vehicle maintenance/operation. It lists the proper vehicle fluids to use, the change intervals and other information a driver needs to maintain their vehicle.
- A properly maintained vehicle saves the owner money by conserving fuel and by getting the maximum life expectancy for the vehicle.
- Listen to your vehicle-All 1996 and newer vehicles have a check engine light on the dashboard. If it is lit, get it fixed. When lit the vehicle's computer has identified a problem that needs to be addressed.

### Buy the Best Vehicle

- When purchasing a vehicle, look for the most fuel efficient one that meets your needs.  
[www.fueleconomy.gov/](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/)

### Don't Believe Wild Claims

- When fuel prices increase so do the claims and number of the so called "fuel saving" devices.
- The U.S. EPA has tested over 100 supposed fuel saving devices and has found few that provide fuel economy benefits. When a device works it only provides marginal improvements. Some devices may even damage a vehicle's engine and increase exhaust emissions.
- Go by the saying "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is" when entertaining the pitch of a gas saving device.

## Life Style Changes

- **Combine Trips-** Plan out your errands and trips. Why make multiple trips in a day when one will do. This saves both fuel and time.
- **Bike or Walk to Location** - Plan to walk or bike to your location. This keeps you in shape and saves gas at the same time.
- **Carpool/Vanpool**
  - Baltimore Metropolitan Area
    - Rideshare
      - This service will help people find a carpool partner, a vanpool or other transit options.
      - Phone: Toll Free (866) 645-0022
      - Web: [www.baltometro.org/rideshare/](http://www.baltometro.org/rideshare/)
  - Washington, D.C Metropolitan Area
    - Commuter Connections
      - Offers ridematching for carpools and vanpools and administers the Guaranteed Ride Home program, also helps employers establish commuter benefit programs for their employees, including telework/telecommuting.
      - Phone: Toll Free: 1-800-745-RIDE (7433)
      - Web: [www.mwcog.org/commuter2/index.html](http://www.mwcog.org/commuter2/index.html)
- **Ride Mass Transit**
  - Baltimore Metropolitan Area
    - Organization: Mass Transit Administration
    - Phone: 1-866-RIDE-MTA (743-3682)
    - (TTY) (410) 539-3497
    - Web: [www.mtmaryland.com](http://www.mtmaryland.com)
  - Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area
    - Organization: Metro
    - Phone: (202) 637- 7000 (TTY) 638-3780)
    - Web: [www.wmata.com/](http://www.wmata.com/)



So when feasible please use these or other fuel saving suggestions. No matter if a lot or a little fuel is saved, it all means more money for you and less pollution for the community. It all adds up to a cleaner world.